

# KEMPSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

## Report of the Medical Officer of Health FOR THE YEAR 1898.

Gentlemen,—I beg to lay before you my report for the year 1898.

*Population of the District.*—The population of the district is estimated at 4,000.

*Birth Rate.*—The births registered for the year number 149, giving a birth-rate of 37·2 per 1,000.

*Death Rate.*—The deaths registered for the year number 55, giving a death-rate of 13·7 per 1,000.

*Infant Mortality.*—The deaths of infants under one year have been 19, being at the rate of 4·7 per 1,000, or 34·5 per cent. of the entire returns, and equal to a proportion 127 per 1,000 births.

*Zymotic Death Rate per 1,000.*—1·75. All the deaths under this heading occurred from infantile diarrhoea. 7 deaths are recorded, all in children of 13 months and under, and during the months of August and September.

*Death Rate from Phthisis.*—One per 1,000.

*Death Rate from Respiratory Diseases.*—1·5 per 1,000.

*Deaths over 65, per centage of total deaths.*—25·4.

*Prevalence of Disease.*—Twenty-one certificates were received under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act during the year, as follows:—

Scarlet fever .....	19
Enteric fever .....	2

Of the scarlet fever cases, 9 occurred in a school on the confines of the district, in which the boys were resident. The first case occurred in a boy who had just come from Ireland. The cases were isolated in a separate block of the building. The other cases were treated at home. The two cases of enteric fever occurred in different parts of the district, and were also treated at home. No other members in the same household were affected. The cause in both cases is obscure. Both cases occurred in November, and up to this date no certificate has been received since. As the Bedford District Hospital is still in the elementary stages, no Isolation Hospital is as yet available.

*Drainage and Water Supply.*—The scavenging of the district is being well carried out, the appliances and staff have been increased during the past year. The water supply is still derived from the same sources and under the same conditions as mentioned in my last year's report. An endeavour was made to find a supply by sinking a trial well in one of the gravel pits. It was considered that a good sample might be got there, but the result on analysis was found to be unsatisfactory. Owing to the dry summer a scarcity of water was felt in some parts of the district.

*General and House Sanitation.*—Mr Foster, Sanitary Inspector, has handed me the accompanying returns. The district is under my daily supervision. Two streets have been made and supplied with surface drains during the year. A third is about to be proceeded with. No case of overcrowding has been reported, and no house has been closed as unfit for habitation.

In conclusion, I am of opinion that the most pressing need of the district is an improved water supply; but how or where it is to be obtained I must admit I am

unable to state. From the configuration of the district any water scheme must be a most expensive undertaking. As regards expense, which of course means higher rates or rents, I feel in duty bound to state that the great majority of the inhabitants of Kempston belong to the working and labouring classes, a great proportion of whom walk to and from their work in Bedford (two miles distant) and live out here on account of the somewhat cheaper rents. If rates and rents increase, then the attraction of living in this district (where we have abundance of fresh air) will cease, and the workmen will find it as cheap to live near their work. Then it must be remembered that the death-rate increases with the density of the population. The whole question is difficult of solution.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE BUTTERS, M.B., C.M.,  
Medical Officer of Health.

27/2/9.

### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1898.

Return of Nuisances and other matters dealt with during the year:—

Houses without a proper receptacle to privy or having a defective closet .....	50
Wells requiring cleansing and repairing .....	20
Defective cesspools .....	7
Defective or insufficient drains .....	17
Spouting required to buildings .....	3
Defective ashpits .....	6
Disinfectants supplied, &c. ....	9
Houses in a dilapidated state .....	4
Insufficient ventilation to workshop .....	1

Total.....117

Total last year..... 85

Bakehouses inspected .....	8
Slaughter houses inspected .....	6

The number of defective closets dealt with this year are more numerous, because the Council have made an endeavour to get all the existing privy vaults done away with and galvanized closet pails substituted. This has been largely responded to by the owners, and more than half have been completed. The alteration will not only improve the sanitation of the district, but will also facilitate the removal of the night soil by the scavengers. Two extra men have been employed by the Council to assist in the scavenging, and the work is now done very efficiently by the four men with two horses, two sanitary carts, and one ash cart. The average number of pails emptied per week is now about 630, and also about 70 cesspools and 110 ashpits. Bakehouses and slaughter houses have been regularly inspected and the necessary requirements carried out.

LEONARD FOSTER,  
Inspector.



A.

Table of DEATHS during the Year 1898, in the Kempston Urban District, classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities. (Columns for Population and Births are in Table B).	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SURJOINED AGES.										MORTALITY FROM SURJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.								
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.		Under 5 ..... 5 upwds.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Premature Birth and Marasmus.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	TOTAL.	
										1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)											
Kempston Urban District .....	55	19	4	4	1	13	14	Under 5 ..... 5 upwds.	.....	7	1	.....	2	.....	5	12	.....	1	22
												4	4		.....	4	15	.....	33

B.

Table of Population, Births and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the Year 1898, in the Kempston Urban District, classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	Population at all Ages.			Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.	
	Last Census.	Estimated to middle of 1898.				Scarlatina.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.
(a)	(b)	(c)		(d)	(e)		
Kempston Urban District .....	4000			149	Under 5. ..... 5 upwards	2 ..... 17	..... ..... 2

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District.—Ys. Since when?—Since District was formed. Besides the above-mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns with blank headings the names of any other diseases that are notifiable in the District; and fill the columns accordingly. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (11) the locality in which such Hospital is situated; or if not within the District, state where it is situated.—No Isolation Hospital.

KEMPSTON  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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Report  
OF THE  
*MEDICAL OFFICER*  
FOR THE YEAR  
1898.